



Bruce Rauner, Governor
Jeff Mays, Director

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Wednesday, November 25, 2015

Anjali Julka
Phone: 312.793.9635

Tom Austin
Phone: 815.395.6680

Illinois Metros See Minimal Job Growth; Seven Metro Areas Lose Jobs

Unemployment Rates Continue Downward Trend

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	October 2015	October 2014	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	4.8%	5.0%	-0.2
Carbondale-Marion	6.1%	6.1%	0.0
Champaign-Urbana	5.1%	5.3%	-0.2
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	5.0%	6.1%	-1.1
Danville	6.9%	7.3%	-0.4
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	5.6%	5.8%	-0.2
Decatur	6.8%	7.2%	-0.4
Elgin	5.4%	5.7%	-0.3
Kankakee	6.4%	6.7%	-0.3
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	5.0%	5.4%	-0.4
Peoria	6.6%	6.2%	0.4
Rockford	6.8%	7.0%	-0.2
Springfield	5.1%	5.4%	-0.3
St. Louis (IL-Section)	5.9%	6.3%	-0.4
Illinois Statewide	5.3%	6.0%	-0.7

* Data subject to revision.

CHICAGO – Unemployment rates in Illinois fell in 12 metro areas, increased in one and remained the same in one. Seven metro areas across the state saw job loss compared to a year ago, according to preliminary data released today by the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Not seasonally adjusted data compares October 2015 with October 2014.

Illinois businesses lost jobs in seven metro areas including the Quad Cities (-2.1 percent, -3,900), Carbondale-Marion (-1.6 percent, -900), and Peoria (-1.0 percent, -1,800). Illinois businesses added jobs in six metros, in which the largest increases were seen in: Danville (+1.7 percent, +500), Elgin (+1.6 percent, +4,200), and Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division (+1.4 percent or +49,600). The industry sectors recording job growth in the majority of metros were: Retail Trade (nine of 14), Leisure and Hospitality (nine of 14), Transportation, Warehousing and Public Utilities (eight of 14), and Education and Health Services (eight of 14).

“We are thankful for every single job we have gained since the national recovery began in July 2009,” IDES Director Jeff Mays said. “However, at Thanksgiving 2015, too few Illinois residents are feeling this turnaround.”

The not seasonally adjusted Illinois rate was 5.3 percent in October 2015 and stood at 12.2 percent at its peak in this economic cycle in January 2010. Nationally, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.8 percent in October and 10.6 percent in January 2010 at its peak. The unemployment rate identifies those who are out of work and looking for work, and is not tied to collecting unemployment insurance benefits.

Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – October 2015

Metropolitan Area	October 2015*	October 2014**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	96,200	95,500	700
Carbondale-Marion MSA	54,900	55,800	-900
Champaign-Urbana MSA	111,500	110,400	1,100
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,668,400	3,618,800	49,600
Danville MSA	29,700	29,200	500
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	180,900	184,800	-3,900
Decatur MSA	51,100	51,300	-200
Elgin Metro Division	259,500	255,300	4,200
Kankakee MSA	45,600	45,600	0
Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division	402,800	406,500	-3,700
Peoria MSA	178,600	180,400	-1,800
Rockford MSA	151,900	152,500	-600
Springfield MSA	113,500	112,300	1,200
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	231,300	232,600	-1,300
Illinois Statewide	5,990,400	5,949,300	41,100

*Preliminary **Revised

(continued)

1037**15



Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates (percent) for Local Counties and Areas

	Oct- 15	Oct- 14	Over the Year Change
Rockford MSA			
Boone County	5.9%	6.2%	-0.3
Winnebago County	7.0%	7.1%	-0.1
Cities			
Belvidere City	7.2%	7.2%	0.0
Freeport City	7.2%	7.9%	-0.7
Rockford City	8.3%	8.5%	-0.2
Counties			
Bureau County	6.0%	6.2%	-0.2
Carroll County	4.9%	4.9%	0.0
DeKalb County	5.3%	5.6%	-0.3
Henry County	6.3%	6.1%	0.2
JoDaviess County	4.9%	4.9%	0.0
Kane County	5.4%	5.8%	-0.4
Lee County	4.9%	5.2%	-0.3
McHenry County	4.3%	5.3%	-1.0
Ogle County	5.9%	6.3%	-0.4
Stephenson County	6.2%	6.5%	-0.3
Whiteside County	6.1%	6.1%	0.0

Stephenson County

The October 2015 not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.2 percent compared to 6.5 percent in October 2014. The last time the October rate was equal to or lower was in 2007 when it was 5.2 percent. For the month of October 2015, the number of people unemployed in the labor force was 1,350.

Total nonfarm employment fell (-225) compared to a year ago. Professional-Business Services (+100) and Government (+50) added the most jobs from October 2014. Financial Activities (-125), Leisure-Hospitality (-100), and Manufacturing (-75) sectors recorded the largest employment decline compared to one year ago.

Note:

- Monthly 2014 unemployment rates and total non-farm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February 2015, as required by the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Comments and tables distributed for prior metro area news releases should be discarded as any records or historical analysis previously cited may no longer be valid.

###

Rockford MSA Highlights

Help Wanted

Area employers advertised for 6,900 positions in October and approximately 86 percent sought full-time employment, according to Help Wanted OnLine data compiled by the Conference Board. It is a global, independent business membership and research association. Employers actually need more workers than the help wanted advertising indicates because some industries, such as construction, typically do not advertise job openings.

Rockford MSA

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 6.8 percent in October 2015 from 7.0 percent in October 2014. The last time the October rate was equal to or lower was in 2006 when it was 4.1 percent. For the month of October, the estimated number of people unemployed in the labor force was 11,600.

Total nonfarm employment decreased (-600) compared to October 2014. Retail Trade (+300), Leisure-Hospitality (+200), Government (+100), Educational-Health Services (+100), and Transportation-Warehousing-Utilities (+100) reported payroll gains. Professional-Business Services (-800), Construction (-300), and Manufacturing (-300) industries recorded declines compared to one year ago.

Ogle County

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 6.4 percent in October 2015 from 6.6 percent in October 2014. The last time the October rate was equal to or lower was in 2007 when it was 5.8 percent. For the month of October 2015, the number of people unemployed in the labor force was 1,500.

Total nonfarm employment held steady compared to a year ago. The Construction (+150) and Manufacturing (+50) sectors added the most jobs over the year. The Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (-100) sector recorded the largest employment decline compared to one year ago.